



SEATTLE OFFICE OF
Sustainability & Environment

700 5th Avenue, Suite 2748
PO Box 94729
Seattle WA 98124

Phone: (206) 615-0817
Fax (206) 684-3013

www.seattle.gov/food

SUMMARY OF RECOMM

Goals	Strategies	Recommendations
Healthy Food For All All Seattle residents should have enough to eat and access to affordable, local, healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate food	Promote the location of healthy food access points, such as grocery stores, healthy food retail, farmers markets, food gardens, and farms, within walking or bicycling distance from homes, work places, and other gathering places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate policies supportive of food access into City of Seattle plans and efforts. • Explore incentives for locating grocery stores in areas identified as having low food security and poor food access. • As criteria in evaluating transportation projects, include safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between residential neighborhoods and food access points.
	Use the City's purchasing and contracting power to support healthy, local, sustainably produced food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement best practice nutrition and physical activity standards at Seattle-supported licensed childcare facilities. • Adopt healthy vending guidelines for vending machines on City property. • Adopt healthy procurement guidelines for City contracts, events, and facilities.
	Support programs, policies, and projects that help get more healthy food to children and youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand the Farm to Table program. • Support and expand the Good Food Bag program. • Provide free summer meals to children. • Provide operational support to food banks and congregate meal programs. • Provide support to family childcare providers to help improve the quality of food served.
	Increase affordability of healthy, local food for low-income Seattle residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to older adult and bags of local produce to home-bound seniors. • Support and expand efforts to enroll eligible families in food assistance programs, including SNAP and WIC. • Motivate healthy food purchases by SNAP recipients by working with partners to create a Fresh Bucks program for use at Farmers Markets.
	Promote healthy food, especially in low-income communities and with youth, through education and collaborative efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable food systems and urban agriculture education for teens, adults, seniors, and children.
Prevent Food Waste Food-related waste should be prevented, reused, or recycled	Prevent edible food from entering the waste stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a behavior change campaign aimed at reducing edible food entering the waste stream.
	Increase composting of non-edible food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to require food-waste recycling for all residential customers and encourage food-waste recycling for commercial customers. • Explore the benefits of collecting garbage every other week, and yard/food waste weekly. • Establish food-waste recycling or composting at municipal facilities. • Continue to promote backyard composting.

ENDATIONS

Goals	Strategies	Recommendations
Grow Local It should be easy to grow food in Seattle and in our region, for personal use or for business purposes.	Prioritize food production as a use of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate policies supportive of urban agriculture into City of Seattle plans and efforts Working within the City's property database, develop additional site criteria to more readily identify vacant or underused parcels suitable for urban agriculture.
	Develop and support programs to produce food on City-owned land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and expand the P-Patch community gardening and market gardening programs, focusing on meeting the needs of all residents interested in growing food in a P-Patch. Improve management and harvesting of fruits and berries on existing City-owned property. Where appropriate, consider leasing City-owned land to non-profit community partners to support community goals and produce food for the community. Lease underutilized City-owned land to urban farmers through the Seattle Farms program.
	Support efforts to expand urban food production on privately owned land, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage continued use of the competitive Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund to develop and fund innovative community-based food production projects. Encourage new developments to include garden or agricultural land through the Seattle Green Factor and Priority Green Permitting. Include a fruit tree option in Trees for Neighborhoods, a project of Seattle reLeaf, to promote food production on residential property. Provide education about low-impact, chemical-free home gardening.
	Explore opportunities to expand rooftop and building integrated agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to expand rooftop and building-integrated agriculture.
	Work jointly with other jurisdictions to conserve agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Seattle's role in conserving regional agricultural land through transferring development rights from farmland to urban areas. Explore innovative ways in which Seattle can help to protect regional farmland.
Strengthen the Local Economy Businesses that produce, process, distribute, and sell local and healthy food should grow and thrive in Seattle.	Support businesses that grow, distribute, process, and sell local and healthy food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support market gardens for low-income immigrant and refugee communities. Explore the need for local and regional food-processing facilities, cold storage, and other food-related infrastructure. Provide comprehensive, user-friendly information on the requirements to operate as a food processor.
	Celebrate and enhance local food as an element of Seattle's identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the economic development potential of the food system as a local industry cluster. Identify opportunities to enhance Seattle's local food business identity.
	Support farmers markets and small retailers that sell healthy and locally produced food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver streamlined permitting services to farmers markets and help existing farmers markets maintain viable locations. Support existing business owners in increasing healthy foods offered in their stores.

APPENDIX A

Community Listening Session Feedback

The first step in creating this action plan was to learn from community stakeholders about their food system priorities. Over 150 Seattle residents attended a series of listening sessions in the spring of 2011, and shared their ideas and priorities for the City of Seattle's work on food.

At the listening sessions, participants were asked to choose two of five issue areas in which to share their ideas and priorities. What we heard in these listening sessions is summarized below.

1. **Improve the accessibility and affordability of healthy food**

Ensure that everyone can eat healthy food. This includes both physical access and affordability of fresh and healthy food. Ideas included increasing healthy food in city contracts; providing incentives to locate farmers markets and full service grocers in underserved neighborhoods; decreasing price through aggregation of local buyers for institutions or small markets; increasing access to living wage jobs so people can afford to choose healthy food; providing healthy, local foods through current programs (school breakfast, lunch, childcare, etc) and increasing utilization of these services; creating incentives for people to make healthy choices; and taxing processed (unhealthy) food and subsidizing healthy food.

2. **Use public and private land to grow food**

Provide more access to space for people to grow food – community gardens, urban farms, and P-Patches – on the ground and on rooftops. Empower groups and neighborhoods to produce their own food. Identify vacant or unused City-owned land and make that land available for commercial urban farming.

3. **Leverage existing facilities**

There are many places around the city where people regularly gather. These include community centers, schools, religious institutions, and child care sites. Use these places to get more healthy food where it is needed through classes, healthier food in meals, and food distribution. Support and increase food-related education and activities at community centers, including gardening, eating, cooking, and sharing.

4. **Support small food businesses**

Reduce barriers for new small business development and entry into the marketplace and support disadvantaged populations to become food entrepreneurs. Explore the idea of food business incubators.

5. **Reduce food waste**

Redirect food out of the waste stream (to food banks, secondary uses) and support neighborhood-scale composting.

6. **Identify and fill gaps in distribution and processing infrastructure**

Many identified cold storage, aggregation, and minimal processing infrastructure as a gap in the local food system. This infrastructure would make it easier for small and micro farms in and around Seattle to expand their opportunities to sell local food in more markets.

7. **Support food education.**

Increase efforts to educate the public about eating, cooking, and growing food through P-Patch, schools, community centers, and to the public. Education helps to drive demand for healthy, local, sustainable food.

8. **Research and assess.**

Define key terms like "healthy" and "access"; identify indicators and track over time.

9. **Communicate and collaborate**

Many people don't know what the City is currently doing and would like to know. Listening session participants were glad that they were being engaged, and wanted the communication to continue. People would like to see more opportunities for businesses, organizations, and public agencies to share knowledge and information and to collaborate. There was a high priority placed on ensuring participation from diverse communities.

APPENDIX B

Food Action Plan Strategy Evaluation Criteria

After clarifying goals for the food policy program, the Food Interdepartmental Team (IDT) identified a list of current activities and potential new actions that could advance these goals, developed a series of evaluation criteria, and filtered the activities list through the criteria. The evaluation criteria used by the Food IDT are listed below.

- Addresses a priority identified in the community listening sessions
- Aligns with regional collaborative efforts
- Has the potential to improve racial and/or social equity
- Has the potential to improve public health
- Directly relates to shared prosperity
- Has the potential to improve environmental sustainability
- Has the potential for significant impact
- Is currently being worked on by a City department
- Is something that members of the Food IDT believe is of high priority
- Is something that aligns with priorities of a City department
- Is something that seems doable in three to five years
- Is something that can take place within our own departments, programs, and services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

About this Plan

Healthy food is integral to the health and well-being of our communities. Healthy food is defined as food that is fresh and nutritious and grown without harming its producers or our air, water, or soil. In a healthy food system, healthy food is available and accessible for all community members; there is a strong network of successful and culturally appropriate businesses that produce, process, cook, transport, and sell that food; there are opportunities to produce food locally; and food waste is prevented.

The Food System

The food system comprises all the ways in which food moves from farm (or producer) to table (consumer). That includes the farms on which it's grown, the manufacturers who process and produce foods, the venues in which the foods are delivered to the public, and the way the consumer receives and consumes food.

Seattle has made a healthy food system a priority. To support our food system in Seattle and the region, the City has created the Seattle Food Action Plan.

The City of Seattle cares about our local food system for many reasons. Rising obesity and diet-related diseases increase health care costs and decrease life expectancy. One in five children in King County does not always have enough to eat, and growing economic inequality makes healthy food even harder for many to afford. Chemically intensive agriculture degrades the quality of our land, our air, and our water. Food sales, restaurants, food products and food service are a growing sector of the local economy. Food inequities disproportionately affect low-income residents, children, seniors, and communities of color. Growing, eating, and sharing food brings local communities together.



Picardo P-Patch. Photo Credit: Seattle Department of Neighborhoods